

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /142 W
----- 001809

R 061335 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2396

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, RW

SUBJ: RWANDAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REF: KIGALI 0189

1. FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS REFLECT FLURRY OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN AGITATED PRE- ELECTION PERIOD AND BEHIND FACADE OF RESTORED CALM IN RWANDA:

A. RUMORS OF RECENT ATTEMPTED COUP D' ETAT. RUMORS HAVE SOME CREDIBILITY IN VIEW TIGHTENED AIRPORT SECURITY AND TRANSFER LAST WEEK TWO TOP SECURITY OFFICERS TO LESS SENSITIVE POSITIONS. HEAD OF SURETE, MAJOR KANYARENGWE, RELIEVED OF JOB AND MADE SCHOOL DIRECTOR AT NYUNDO (NORTHERN RWANDA). NEW HEAD OF SURETE NOT RPT NOT YET NAMED. NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR BENDA MADE VICE- MANAGER OF MULINDI TEA PLANT- ATION. ARCHBISHOP OF KABGAYI, MONSIGNOR PERRAUDIN, LONG- TIME RESIDENT WITH CREDIBLE AND VARIED SOURCES OF INFORMATION, TOLD AMBASSADOR HE BELIEVED THERE HAD BEEN " SMALL" COUP ATTEMPT, THWARTED BY LOYALTY OF NATIONAL GUARD AND " MOST" MINISTERS.

B. REPORT THAT MINISTER OF NATIONAL GUARD HABYALIMANA HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION CONFIRMED BY A SOURCE WHO SAW DOCUMENT.

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C. MORNING- LONG CABINET MEETING APRIL 4 FOLLOWING WHICH COMMUNIQUE ISSUED: A) SUPPORTING PRESIDENT' S STATEMENT OF MARCH 23 (REFTEL); B) REAFFIRMING BROTHERLY CO- EXISTENCE OF THREE ETHNIC GROUPS; C) CALLING FOR DEMOCRATIC (ETHNICALLY BALANCED) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM; D) ASSURING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL; AND E) ANNOUNCING THAT MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO THROTTLE " SUBVERSIVE" GROUP WHICH HAD TRIED DESTROY REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS AND BRING ABOUT ANARCHY. CABINET ALSO APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON MILITARY PROMOTIONS WHICH, INTER ALIA, ELEVATED MINISTER OF NATIONAL GUARD HABYALIMANA FROM COLONEL TO MAJOR GENERAL, AND MAJOR KANYARENGWE TO LT. COL.

D. APRIL 4 MORNING CABINET MEETING FOLLOWED BY SOMEWHAT SECRETIVE AFTERNOON MEETING OF SEVERAL MINISTERS IN GENRAL HABYALIMANA' S OFFICE.

2. COMMENT: PATTERN THESE EVENTS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. CABINET COMMUNIQUE SEEMS TO UNDERLINE PREVIOUSLY STATED GOVERNMENT DETERMINATION TOLERATE NO FURTHER VIOLENCE. HOW EFFECTIVE GOR WILL BE IN STOPPING PROMOTERS OF ANARCHY OR RECTIFYING SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO RECENT TROUBLES, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WHILE PROMOTION OF MINISTER HABYALIMANA IS CLEARLY REWARD FOR KEY ROLE NATIONAL GUARD PLAYED IN RESTORING ORDER AND FOR LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT, KANYARENGWE' S RUSTICATION AND PROMOTION APPEARS TO BE KICK UPSTAIRS AND ATTEMPT TO REMOVE HIM FROM KIGALI POLITICAL SCENE. CORRIGAN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KIGALI00223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaaahjtm.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KIGALI 0189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971203
Subject: RWANDAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY
TAGS: MILI, PINS, RW, MILI
To: AF
BRUSSELS
BUJUMBURA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005